

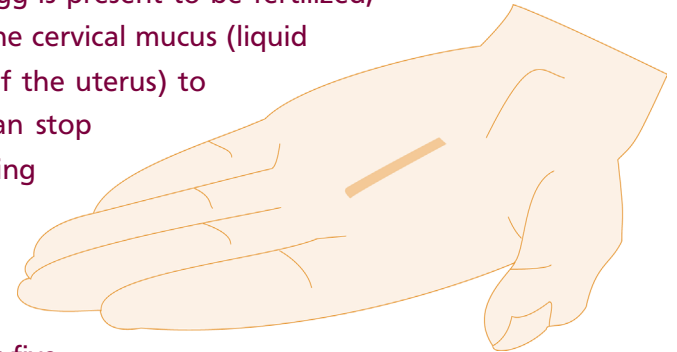
Implants

How implants work:

Implants are small, flexible capsules that are inserted, or implanted, under the skin of your upper arm. One-capsule and two-capsule systems may soon be available. Implants are filled with a low-dose progestin that is continually released into your body.

Because of the constant presence of the progestin hormone, implants work by stopping your body from releasing an egg so that no egg is present to be fertilized, and by causing the cervical mucus (liquid at the opening of the uterus) to thicken, which can stop sperm from getting into the uterus.

The Norplant System, using six capsules, lasts for five years. Other implant systems, using one or two capsules under the skin, will work in the same way, but will need to be replaced more often.



How to use implants:

After giving you a local anesthetic (similar to what dentists use) your doctor or health care provider inserts the capsules

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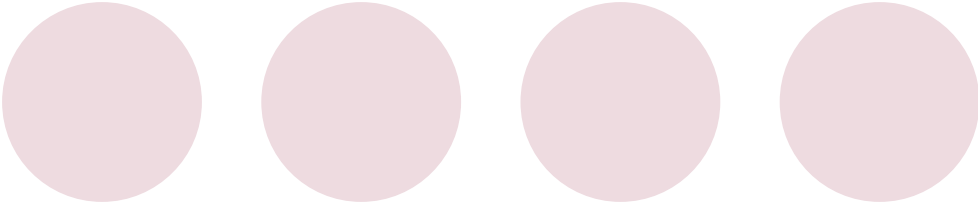
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into your upper arm through a special needle. You will have some discomfort and bruising at the place of insertion for a short time.

Effectiveness rates:

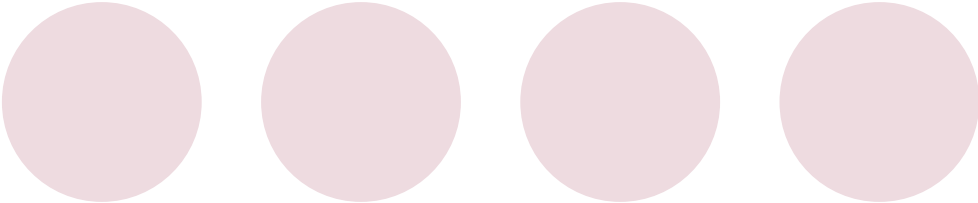
Implants are 99.9% effective until they are removed.

Benefits of implants:

Implants are continuous and easy protection from pregnancy; you don't have to remember to take a pill every day. You and your partner do not have to interrupt your sexual activity to use this method. You will have very light bleeding or no periods, especially after the first year. Implants can be used while breastfeeding. Women who cannot take estrogen because of certain health problems may wish to try implants. Implants protect against uterine cancer.

Potential side effects and disadvantages:

During the first year, many women report longer periods, spotting between periods or no bleeding at all. Some women report headaches, mood changes, weight gain or loss, increase in acne and/or fluid retention.



Using implants for birth control will not give you protection against HIV (AIDS) or sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as chlamydia, herpes, genital warts, gonorrhea, hepatitis B and syphilis.

Potential risks:

Implants may be difficult to remove. Removal requires a minor surgical procedure. Some women should not use implants because of certain health conditions. Ask your doctor or health care provider.

Where can you get implants?

Insertion is done by a qualified health care provider. Call your local family planning clinic for information. Ask your provider about the current status of Norplant and the future availability of other implants.